

**I-94 widening
South Westnedge Avenue interchange reconstruction
Portage
Kalamazoo County
June 2009 – November 2011**

What we are doing: The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing \$50 million to reconstruct and widen almost 2 miles of I-94 from east of Oakland Drive to east of Lovers Lane in the city of Portage.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing \$50 million in the city of Portage to reconstruct nearly 2 miles of I-94. Included in the project:

- Widen I-94 from four to six lanes, three lanes in each direction.
- Reconstruct the Westnedge Avenue interchange with a more efficient Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) design.
- Install a new traffic signal on South Westnedge Avenue.
- Widen approximately 1,600 feet of South Westnedge Avenue to accommodate the new interchange and remove the traffic bottleneck posed by the existing bridge carrying I-94 traffic over South Westnedge Avenue.
- Rebuild four bridges.
- Provide screening walls for residents currently impacted by highway noise.
- Upgrade existing freeway signing.
- Construction of two new detention basins to improve water quality discharged to the west branch of Portage Creek.

MDOT anticipated the next construction in the corridor would occur in the year 2020 due to a lack of transportation funding.

This segment of the I-94 corridor carries a very high volume of commercial truck traffic as it provides the vital transportation link between Detroit and Chicago. South Westnedge Avenue is regarded as the center of commercial retail activity for Kalamazoo County in addition to providing the critical arterial route for traffic between Kalamazoo and Portage.

This project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

How traffic is affected: This project will be constructed in three phases over three years. Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be maintained on I-94 throughout the project.

Give 'em Your Business: Throughout construction, all South Westnedge Avenue businesses will remain open and accessible. Those businesses will be accessible by using posted detours on Oakland Drive, Portage Road, Milham Road and Kilgore Road.

2009: Work will consist mostly of improvements to the existing roadway that are required prior to beginning major reconstruction of the South Westnedge Avenue interchange in 2010. Work also will begin on the bridge carrying I-94 over the Grand Elk

Railroad and Portage Creek. This work will require closure of this segment of the Portage Bicentennial Park Trail Way through the fall of 2011. The work in 2009 will be accomplished using nighttime lane closures and will have little impact on traffic flow on South Westnedge Avenue or I-94.

2010: Construction will begin on the eastbound lanes of I-94, as well as on the new bridges carrying I-94 over South Westnedge Avenue and the Grand Elk Railroad. This work will require all lanes of traffic to be shifted onto the existing westbound I-94 roadway.

Several ramps in the I-94/Westnedge Avenue interchange will need to be closed.

- Eastbound I-94 to northbound Westnedge Avenue.
- Eastbound I-94 to southbound Westnedge Avenue.
- Westbound I-94 to southbound Westnedge Avenue.
- Westnedge Avenue to eastbound I-94.

In addition, southbound Portage Road to westbound I-94 will also need to be closed.

Detour routes will be signed for the ramp closures. Two lanes of traffic on Westnedge Avenue will be maintained, except for a few nighttime closures that will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction. There also will be two, 12-hour full closures of South Westnedge Avenue on Saturday and Sunday evenings, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

At the end of the 2010 construction season, half of the project will be complete. Eastbound traffic will be shifted onto the newly completed eastbound I-94 roadway for the winter months. Because of the partially completed interchange at I-94 and South Westnedge Avenue, some ramps still will be closed.

- Eastbound I-94 to northbound Westnedge Avenue.
- Southbound Westnedge Avenue to eastbound I-94.

2011: When construction begins on the final phase of the project, westbound I-94 traffic will be shifted onto the new eastbound I-94 roadway and work will begin on the new westbound lanes and the new bridges carrying I-94 over South Westnedge Avenue and the Grand Elk Railroad.

This work will require closure of additional ramps in the I-94/Westnedge Avenue interchange.

- Westbound I-94 to northbound Westnedge.
- Westbound I-94 to southbound Westnedge.
- Westnedge Avenue to westbound I-94.
- Eastbound I-94 to northbound Westnedge Avenue.
- Southbound Westnedge Avenue to eastbound I-94.

In addition, southbound Portage Road to westbound I-94 will also need to be closed.

All ramps will have posted detours. Two lanes of traffic on Westnedge Avenue will be maintained, except for a few nighttime closures that will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction. There also will be two, 12-hour full closures of South Westnedge Avenue on Saturday and Sunday evenings, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

For more information: Contact the Kalamazoo Transportation Service Center at 269-375-8900, or Southwest Region Communications Representative Nick Schirripa at 269-337-3927.